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37. Post-conflict peacebuilding

Overview

From 2012 to 2013, the Security Council held three meetings in connection with the agenda item entitled “Post-conflict peacebuilding”, adopting one presidential statement. In two meetings, the Council considered two annual reports of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), which were followed by informal interactive dialogues (IIDs). The Council considered a report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict¹ at a separate meeting, at which it adopted a presidential statement.²

The table at the end of the section lists the meetings at which this item was considered, and gives information on, inter alia, invitees, speakers and decisions adopted.

Consideration of the annual report of PBC

On 12 July 2012, the Secretary-General highlighted progress made two years after the review of the peacebuilding architecture, i.e., the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office, particularly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. He mentioned three areas where PBC could do more to enhance the impact of peacebuilding tools: improving its capacity to leverage its membership and its

¹ [S/2012/746](#).

² [S/PRST/2012/29](#).

ability to mobilize resources; sustaining the focus on longer-term peacebuilding; and adding significant value in some non-mission settings in the form of intergovernmental support.³

The former Chairperson of PBC (Rwanda), presenting the annual report of PBC,⁴ stated that upon the country's request for advice and support, Guinea had become the sixth country on the agenda of PBC despite the fact that the country was not on the agenda of the Council and had no mandated mission deployed to it. He highlighted three elements from the report: the efforts undertaken by PBC to engage with the international financial institutions; the capacity of PBC to promote knowledge and experience-sharing; and the need for strengthening the interaction with and advisory role vis-à-vis the principal organs of the United Nations. With regard to the relationship between PBC and the Council, he highlighted that briefings by the Chairs of the country-specific configurations to the Council had become systematic in advance of the periodic consideration by the Council of the situations in and the mandates involving countries on the agenda of PBC. He also noted the introduction by the Council of IIDs on certain country-specific situations. Furthermore, he recalled that the 2010 review had considered the potential for enhancing the linkage between PBC and the Council and stressed the need for clarity from the Council regarding the specific areas for which the advice of PBC could be sought.⁵

The current Chairperson of PBC stressed the need for better understanding of the nature and scope of the role of the Commission, and noted that PBC had yet to meet its full potential. He also shared suggestions from the Chairs of country-specific configurations, namely: intensifying and institutionalizing the relationships between the Council and country-specific configurations; clarifying the division of responsibilities with the senior United Nations leadership in the field; timely advice by PBC to the Council as it considered a transition from one form of United Nations engagement to

³ [S/PV.6805](#), pp. 2-3.

⁴ [S/2012/70](#)

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

another; and periodic information sharing with the Council on country-specific opportunities and risks.⁶

The Vice-President and Head of Network Operations, Policy and Country Services of the World Bank stated that PBC had provided useful inputs and guidance to the World Bank country teams and added that the Bank saw progress in the six country-specific configuration areas, while exhorting for greater coherence across the international aid structure.⁷

Speakers commended the efforts of all six PBC country-specific configurations. They also stressed the need to strengthen national capacities and to enhance the relationship with the Council, particularly in regard to the quality of interaction between the two bodies and the advisory role of PBC vis-à-vis the consideration of peacebuilding mandates by the Council in the countries on the agenda of PBC. Speakers also called for improved coordination among the relevant peacebuilding stakeholders, including the principal organs and United Nations agencies, as well as international financial institutions and other actors outside of the United Nations system.

Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict

On 20 December 2012, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict.⁸ The Secretary-General reported that since the publication of his initial report of 2009 on the topic,⁹ United Nations post-conflict peacebuilding efforts had become more coherent, timely and effective with notable achievements in conflict resolution, gender-responsive planning, financing and the rule of law. However, he noted that accomplishments in governance and economic recovery had been less substantial. The Secretary-General underscored three critical elements for

⁶ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

⁷ Ibid., p. 8.

⁸ [S/2012/746](#).

⁹ [S/2009/304](#).

successful peacebuilding: inclusivity; institution-building; and sustained international support.¹⁰

The Chairperson of PBC highlighted the value of the periodic reporting by the Secretary-General to the Council and the General Assembly on peacebuilding, and noted the importance of the three elements stressed by the Secretary-General, as well as analysis and recommendations with respect to women's participation in peacebuilding contained in his report. He welcomed the three specific recommendations in the report addressed to PBC: to improve collaboration, coherence and alignment of partners behind national peacebuilding strategies; to find differentiated and flexible forms of engagement with the countries on its agenda; and to enhance collaboration between PBC and the Security Council.¹¹

Speakers welcomed the progress made since the publication of the initial report and continued to stress the potential advisory role of PBC to the Council. They also acknowledged that further efforts were necessary in peacebuilding, including the strengthening of national capacity, institutions and the rule of law while respecting national sovereignty; enhancing coordination and interaction between PBC and the main United Nations bodies; promoting sustained international financial support and close collaboration of PBC with international and regional financial institutions; ensuring inclusivity and the further participation of women in peacebuilding; and addressing the structural causes of conflict, including those related to economic and social development.

At the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement in which it, *inter alia*, reaffirmed that national ownership and national responsibility were key to establishing sustainable peace, recognised the importance of women participation in peacebuilding, and stressed the need for more coordinated, coherent and integrated peacebuilding efforts.¹²

¹⁰ [S/PV.6897](#), pp. 2-3.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-5.

¹² [S/PRST/2012/29](#).

Consideration of the annual report of PBC

On 25 April 2013, the Council considered the annual report of PBC.¹³ The former Chairperson of PBC and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, presenting the report,¹⁴ stated that during 2012, the Commission had focused on institutional consolidation, facilitating the work of country-specific configurations, strengthening partnerships with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, deepening its working relationship with key actors in the field, and enhancing its partnership with United Nations principal organs, in particular with the Security Council, and developing a new paradigm for South-South cooperation.¹⁵

The current Chairperson of PBC, focusing on the advisory function of PBC to the Council, stated that PBC could and should play a role in support of the Council's consideration of drawdown and transition strategies for three of the missions in the countries on the PBC agenda, as well as in updating the Council on peacebuilding efforts following the transition and exit of a United Nations mission. He added that PBC could offer valuable perspectives to the Council when it considered options for situations where the peacebuilding process in the countries on the PBC agenda faced serious challenges.¹⁶

Speakers stressed the importance of national ownership, the need for improved coordination and division of labour between relevant actors, and the potential of PBC in mobilizing resources. They also called for improving the working methods of PBC and noted the value of the consultative assistance PBC could provide to the Council with regard to peacebuilding mandates.

¹³ [S/2013/63](#)

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ [S/PV.6954](#), pp. 2-4.

¹⁶ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

Meetings: post-conflict peacebuilding

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
S/PV.6805 and S/PV.6805 (Resumption 1) 12 July 2012	Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifth session (S/2012/70) Note verbale dated 2 July 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/511)		28 Member States ^a	Rwanda (former Chair of PBC), Bangladesh (Chair of PBC), World Bank (Vice President and Head of Network Operations, Policy and Country Services), European Union (Head of Delegation)	Secretary-General, all Council members and all invitees ^b	
S/PV.6897 and S/PV.6897 (Resumption 1) 20 December 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict (S/2012/746)		25 Member States ^c	Bangladesh (Chair of PBC), European Union (Deputy Head of the Delegation), African Union (Permanent Observer)	Secretary-General, all Council members and all invitees	S/PRST/2012/29
S/PV.6954 25 April 2013	Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its sixth session (S/2013/63)			Bangladesh (Former Chair of PBC), Croatia (Chair of PBC)	All Council members and all invitees	

^a Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)).

^b Colombia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^cArgentina, Armenia, Australia, Belarus (Assistant on Foreign Policy to the President), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Indonesia, Iran (on behalf of NAM), Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey.